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# NATURE CONSERVANCY NEWS

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## GREAT FALLS, VIRGINIA

A million dollar project at Great Falls has been under consideration for several years. In the past several months, an agreement has been reached between the National Park Service, the Board of Supervisors of Fairfax County, Va., and Nature Conservancy. Under this agreement, the Park Service would ask Congress for $500,000 of Federal money, the County would put up about $250,000 in land and money, and the Nature Conservancy would seek $250,000 in private subscription from foundations and other individual sources.

The National Park Service has included the $500,000 in its budget for the 1960 Fiscal Year. This is now before the Appropriation Committee in the House of Representatives. (The sub-Committee Chairman is Congressman Irwin of Ohio). It later will be before the Senate Appropriations Committee. Letters to your Congressman and Senators on this outstanding project to preserve the south side of the Potomac as a nature preserve, will help assure the initial appropriation.

The Maryland side of the Potomac is to be protected, at least in part, by the proposed C and O Canal National Park which takes in both sides of the old canal. A bill to establish this new national park narrowly failed in a Committee of the last Congress. The proposal will come before the new Congress. Many opponents to both proposals support a large power and flood control dam on the Potomac just above Washington. They also claim, too many parks, land is needed for development, the public cannot afford reduced land tax revenues, etc. More on the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Park later.

## THE NOTCH IN DANGER

Franconia Notch in New Hampshire is in danger. A $38 million superhighway is to be built through the Notch. It probably won't completely ruin the Profile, the Flume, or Echo Lake, but such a road certainly will damage the Notch, and the recreational beauty of the New Hampshire Mountains. The bill is now before the Legislature.

Nature Conservancy members interested in preserving some of the scenic appeal of New England can help by protesting this road to the U. S. Forest Service in Washington (the road will cross National Forest lands), and supporting the protests of the State Forest and Recreation Commission, State House, Concord; and the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests, 5 State St., Concord, N.H. And a letter to the Governor will also help.

## "NORTHWAY" THREATENS ADIRONDACKS

The superhighway threat now casts its shadow over New York's Adirondack State Park--backbone of the greatest scenic, recreational, and natural area in the Northeast. The "Northway"---a 4- to 6-lane, divided, fenced, limited access superhighway---is to be built from Albany to the Canadian border. Plans now would have this road cut through the eastern edge of the Park. Not only would a part of the Park be cut off from the rest, but the fence would impede if not completely prohibit the free movement of animals from the high to the lower elevations.

Proposed amendments to Article XIV of the State Constitution, the "forever wild" section, would limit the amount of land to go under concrete to 300 or 400 acres. Even so, the natural character of several beautiful and wholly State-owned forested valleys would be destroyed were this highway to cut through them.

Numerous conservation organizations are opposing the use of the Forest Preserve lands for the Northway, including the Eastern New York Chapter of Nature Conservancy. To minimize the damage, an alternate route has been proposed. This more easterly route would take none of the public park lands and would pass through the Champlain Valley at a lower elevation.

The State Public Works Department favors the mountain route which takes the most Forest Preserve lands, claiming that the Champlain route would be more costly. This claim is disputed by some independent engineers.

The Northway cannot be constructed through the Adirondacks Park unless the State Constitution is amended. Proposed amendments for two Forest Preserve routes passed the 1958 legislature. Should one of these be passed by the 1959 legislature, it will be voted upon by the people of New York next November. Defeat of the measure then will be far more difficult and costly. The time to stop the highway threat is now.

Conservationists will have to put forth their best efforts if the Northway superhighway is to be kept out of the Forest Preserve. One group has organized as the Citizens Northway Committee to help in the fight to avert the highway threat. Chairman of the group is Philip Ham, an active member of the Eastern New York Chapter of Nature Conservancy.

Every Conservancy member, whether a New York resident or not, can aid the fight to keep the Northway out of the Adirondacks. For information, write to Dr. Robert Rienow, Hollyhock Hollow Farm, R. D., Ravena, New York. Dr. Rienow is Chairman of the Eastern New York Chapter of Nature Conservancy.

## EMBLEM CONTEST

A contest is now open for a Nature Conservancy emblem -- to be used on our stationary and publications, and in other appropriate ways.

Prizes of $300, $200, and $100 will be awarded for the best entries submitted, provided three of these are of such quality as to merit payment of the cash awards.

Our emblem should symbolize clearly and simply the ideals and activities of the Conservancy. It should be designed so as to reproduce well in any size.

An entry must be the original work of the contestant. It should be mailed to the Central Office and be postmarked not later than July 31, 1959. All entries will become the property of Nature Conservancy and will not be returned. Awards will be announced following the Annual Meeting in August.

## LYNX PRAIRIE PROJECT, OHIO

One of the few remaining eastern upland prairies in the East is to be preserved through efforts of the Ohio Chapter of Nature Conservancy. The 200 to 400-acre area is located near Lynx, in Adams County, Ohio, about 75 miles east of Cincinnati.

Lynx Prairie contains primarily tall-grass associations, with some open oak, cedar and pine woodlands. Though most of the area has been grazed and there has been some localized woodcutting, the ground has never been ploughed. The initial 30-acre key tract is already under option and local fund-raising has begun.

## LETTER CAMPAIGN SAVES THE GLEN

A paper blockade of letters of protest built up by the conservation-minded has been credited with staving off construction of a superhighway through 1,700 acres of natural areas and parks in Ohio. As originally planned, the highway would have traversed Glen Helen, the 1,000-acre outdoor laboratory belonging to Antioch College. This is one of the outstanding national centers for nature and conservation education and research.

Former Governor O'Neill issued a directive to the Highway Department to find an alternative route for the highway. Dr. Kenneth W. Hunt, Director of Glen Helen, attributes the Governor's action to the hundreds of letters of protest from garden clubs and from conservation, park, and recreation groups.

"It is contrary to my policy to locate a highway in such a manner as to harm any State Park or recreational area," Governor O'Neill wrote to Dr. Hunt. "Therefore you may feel assured that Route 68 will not go through Glen Helen."

Dr. Hunt considers that, while this may be a battle won, it may also be only the beginning of a long campaign. "Urbanization is speeding up," he points out. "This campaign, and similar campaigns elsewhere, cannot end until there is written into law a policy of priority in regional planning for the values of recreational and natural areas." Dr. Hunt is President of the Ohio Chapter of Nature Conservancy.

## ONE READER WRITES

"Long have I been a nature lover, but now I am a nature conservationist. My husband, a city-bred boy with little contact with anything natural is becoming converted also.

A scant 10 years ago we purchased beach front property--only 75 ft. x 200 ft., all we could afford--in an evergreen forest. It was accessible by trail only, or via the beach if the tide was right. You can imagine the joy of intimacy with the abundant wildlife!

But the changes wrought by real estate development are swift and drastic. It is an old story to you, but a dramatic and sickening lesson to us. In spite of our acquaintance with the developers we couldn't get them to save woods and streams, even though they would not have lost money thereby. They simply have no imagination and somehow can't appreciate the value of the beauty right before their eyes.

All around us are displaced persons, distraught and confused. Sometimes I have wept at the sight of a little corner of paradise lost. Tears don't help, but maybe our humble offering to you will help someone somewhere." Mrs. James L. Harris, Portland, Ore.

## BYRAM RIVER GORGE PRESERVE PROPOSED

Near Greenwich, Connecticut, the Byram River has cut its valley some 200 feet below the surrounding upland, producing a gorge with cliffs of 100 feet and more. The steep slopes are covered with a forest of hemlock, beech, and sugar maple. The age of the older hemlocks has been placed at 200 to 250 years. Many extremely tall tulip trees and white oaks are found on the flood plain. This beautiful and largely undisturbed tract extends on either side of the Byram River for nearly two and one-half miles in the wider parts of the valley.

Only a few years from now, this prized area may be entirely surrounded by a solidly developed suburb. To forestall this encroachment, a group of public-spirited citizens of Greenwich have sought the Conservancy's aid in preserving this area. As a consequence, the Byram River Gorge Committee, has been established with Mrs. Gerrish Milliken, Jr., Mrs. Marius de Zayas, Mrs. Avery Rockefeller, August Klipstein, Jr., and Charles Mohr as members.

Outright gifts of land will be solicited from the owners of properties bordering the gorge, other parcels being purchased where necessary. Primary emphasis will be upon those lands that dip sharply to the river and therefore have least value for real estate development. The Committee plans to acquire about 250 acres to safeguard the gorge and the fine examples of valley bottom timber.

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The SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER has amended its application for a charter to include Santa Barbara County in its territory....By-Laws for the WESTERN WASHINGTON CHAPTER have been approved and adopted....Nature Conservancy is now registered as a "foreign"nonprofit corporation to do business in Ohio. The MISSOURI CHAPTER plan to double the size of the proposed Crowleys Ridge Holly Area has met with the approval of the Board of Governors. Originally authorized for 40 acres, the project will now, if the land can be acquired, be expanded to 80 acres.

## CONSERVANCY MONEY ON LOAN

Nature Conservancy has two funds which are used to promote land acquisition. One is a "Loan Fund" of $15,000, the other a "Matching Fund" of $49,000.

The Loan Fund was established in 1955 with a gift from the Old Dominion Foundation. The money in this fund is primarily available for loans to authorized projects of the Conservancy, in order to take advantage of land-purchasing opportunities where an early initial down payment might be required. The Board of Governors normally does not authorize lending money for more than 50 percent of the purchase price established for the project.

Since the fund was established, loans have been authorized for thirteen projects which will cost nearly $300,000. The loans have totaled more than $62,000. One project has completely repaid its loan; another lacks only a few hundred dollars of wiping out its obligation. By using the loan authorization as a lever in their negotiations, some chapters and project committees have succeeded in acquiring lands without recourse to the loan. Some have voluntarily reduced the size of their authorization so that other projects might benefit. In two cases, the projects have been completed without using any of their authorization. The advantage of keeping the money fluid has thus proven itself. All the money is currently out on loan.

The "Matching Fund" account was established by two $25,000 gifts to the Conservancy from the Old Dominion Foundation, the first in 1957 and the second in 1958. Under this fund, both loans and grants for acquiring land are possible. In general, the policy of the Board of Governors is to be conservative in providing grants, and in all such cases, a demonstration of downright need is required, and then for only limited amounts. So far, two grants totaling $1,650 have been made from this fund, though $2,000 was granted previously from other funds. From all funds, $2,000 has been given to the Moss Lake (N.Y.) project on two appeals; $1,000 to the Battle Creek Cypress (Md.) project; and $650 to the Caledonia Oaks (Minn.) project in Houston County.

The loan funds have greatly aided the Conservancy program. Project committees in need of cash before the local fund-drives have gotten under way have been assured of money when immediately needed to take care of advantageous situations or to make down payments. Mortgage payments also have been met and interest charges decreased. And there has been the assurance that project committees could be aided, should promises for financial support not be forthcoming.

Loans such as described are made without interest for the authorized project. As the committees repay the loans, the money is again lent to some other project, so that the funds are continually at work. As of the end of January, the greater part of the available funds are currently on loan.

In addition to these major loans, the Board sometimes authorizes small loans to new chapters, or to chapters launching a major membership campaign. Such loans are repayable out of the chapter's receipts.

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The LIVING MUSEUMS leaflet in revised form is now available. Members desiring a supply for use in promoting membership and interest in the Nature Conservancy may obtain extra copies from the central office.

## THE BOOKSHELF

THE LIVING FOREST. Jack McCormick, 127 pp. New York: Harper and Brothers. $3.95. This book derives from the most comprehensive exhibition of its kind in the world--the new Hall of North American Forests at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City. Written for the general reader, the book is based on the latest research in forestry and ecology. The principal types of North American forests are described, and the transformations they undergo through such onslaughts as storm, fire, and human abuse. By contrast to what appears as a changeless stand of trees, the forest is shown teeming with activity, as plants and animals both compete and cooperate in the struggle to survive. Dr. McCormick is a member of Nature Conservancy.

AMERICA'S NATURAL RESOURCES. Edited by Charles H. Callison. 211 pp. New York: The Ronald Press. $3.75. This book presents to the layman an informed approach to the problems of conservation. It contains eleven original articles by outstanding authors dealing with our major natural resources--soil, water, grasslands, forests, wildlife, fish, parks, and wilderness areas. Each writer underscores major dangers and points out what should be done to overcome them.

LAND. The Yearbook of Agriculture. U. S. Department of Agriculture. 605 pp. Washington, D. C. (available from Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office). $2.25. The newest addition to this handsome series describes, in language for the layman, the meaning and importance of land, and its role in our history.

## PERSONS, PLACES AND NEWS

Through the generosity of DR. JULIUS S. PRINCE, Nature Conservancy has been named successor trustee to a 70-acre tract near Jamestown, New York. This beautiful area is traversed by a creek, with mature forest stands on either side, primarily hemlock and beech. The woods contain a rich forest vegetation. The proposed sanctuary is easily accessible, though not bordering any road.

Nature Conservancy recently added an additional purchase of 24.5 acres to the MOSS LAKE NATURE SANCTUARY in Allegany County, New York. These additional prospective lands lie at the south end of the lake. MOSS LAKE is a project of the Western New York Chapter.

The Nature Conservancy has invited the Florida Audubon Society to participate in the effort to save Hemp Island in Pine Island Sound from the developer. This small island about 16 miles from Fort Meyer is part of the Public Domain still left in Florida and has been proposed for public sale by the Bureau of Land Management. Intervention may prevent subdivision of this doughnut-like area now frequented by many acquatic birds.

Nature Conservancy now offers a Life Membership on the instalment plan, the $100 fee being acceptable in a series of payments. This new plan is being tried for a year to determine its appeal. If it seems advantageous, changes in the By-Laws would be required to make the plan permanent.

The Wisconsin State Conservation Department has succeeded in its efforts to save the SISTER ISLANDS in Door County for natural area purposes. Several years ago, the Federal Bureau of Land Management contracted for the sale of these public domain lands to a private owner. The State now hopes to purchase a rookery for gulls, terns, and other water birds.

## REPORT FROM THE NATIONAL FUND-RAISING COMMITTEE

In the first six months of the current fiscal year ending June 30, 1959, gifts and pledges toward the national effort have doubled those of any previous year. Toward an ambitious goal of $108,000 approved by the Board of Governors at its November meeting, $85,737 had been received as of January 10, 1959. Of this, $60,737 was unrestricted and $25,000 was a grant from the Old Dominion Foundation toward the Conservancy's Matching Fund. (See article on Loan Funds in this issue of the News.)

The unrestricted $60,737 may be broken down as follows: $14,000 from foundations; $37,837 from gifts, memberships and pledges of $100 and up; $9,900 from memberships and contributions of less than $100. The $6,280 thus far received from membership renewals and $1,638 from new members does not include that 70% portion of the dues and contributions allocated to chapters. The total receipts are, therefore, much larger than those given here.

Hearty thanks to everyone, including the present members of the Fund-Raising Committee: Dr. Conrad Chapman, Admiral Neill Phillips, Dr. Robert Cushman Murphy, Richard H. Pough, and our President, James B. Ross. During the next few months even greater effort must be expended to bring the drive to a successful completion, for the remaining $22,263 will be the hardest. If every member will help by inviting friends to join Nature Conservancy, we will spread the base of our membership support, and thus do much toward establishing the Nature Conservancy on an even sounder financial footing.

Richard H. Goodwin - Chairman

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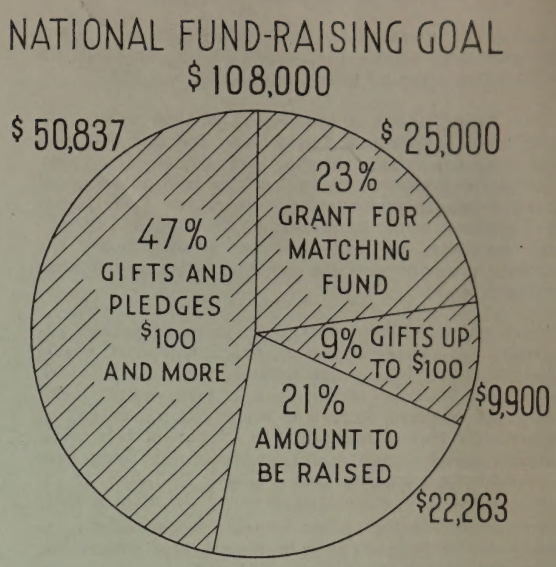
The 1959 Annual Meeting of the Nature Conservancy will be held again in conjunction with the American Institute of Biological Sciences. The A.I.B.S. meeting will run from August 30 through September 3. No date has yet been set for the Conservancy sessions. The meetings will be at State College, Pennsylvania.




## CONSERVATIONISTS VICTORIOUS IN PORCUPINES CONTROVERSY

The Porcupine Mountains State Park in Michigan is safe from commercial exploitation--at least for the present.

Early in January the Bear Creek Mining Company withdrew its application to lease nearly a thousand acres of the park for copper mining. Withdrawal of the application came in the wake of an unprecedented flood of protests to the Michigan Conservation Commission and the recommendation from the Chairman that the lease be denied. Despite the withdrawal, the individual members of the Commission placed their prepared comments in the record. The Commission also reaffirmed the 1954 policy of maintaining public values in parks without impairment.

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The Nature Conservancy is an independent member-governed organization dedicated to saving America's heritage of wild nature. Its specific objective is to preserve natural areas as "living museums" of the primeval wilderness. Such tracts are precious for their scientific, educational, and aesthetic values. They also provide a home for many living things that would otherwise be destroyed by our civilization.

The work of the organization began in 1917 under the direction of a committee of the Ecological Society of America. In 1946, the Ecologists Union was formed to take over the task. In 1950, the name was changed to The Nature Conservancy: incorporation in the District of Columbia took place in 1951.

Nature Conservancy now has a national membership of approximately 3,000. It operates through a series of Chapters, of which thirteen have been organized to date. It has acquired, by gift or purchase, 16 natural areas in six states. The area of these units is some 2,500 acres. They range in size from one acre to 1,000 acres. Nature Conservancy is now actively working toward the acquisition of four additional natural areas in three additional states, the total area of which is about 7,500 acres.

Nature Conservancy has also aided financially in the acquisition of six other natural areas in four states. These units are under the administration and protection of other organizations with whom Nature Conservancy has cooperated.

The members of The Nature Conservancy invite you to join in its work. Membership is open to both individuals and organizations. A contribution of $3 or more entitles you to annual membership, one of $100 or more to life membership and one of $1,000 or more to patron membership. Your contribution is an allowable income tax deduction.

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